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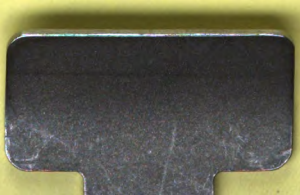

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OXFORDSHIRE MILITIA.

SKETCH

OF THE

HISTORY OF THE REGIMENT.

1869.

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OXFORDSHIRE MILITIA.

SKETCH

OF THE

HISTORY OF THE REGIMENT.

JOHN WINSTON, DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH K.G.

LORD LIEUTENANT.

JOHN WILLIAM FANE

LIEUTENANT COLONEL COMMANDANT.

1869.

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OXFORDSHIRE MILITIA.

The Orderly and Court Martial Books of the Regiment, up to a very recent date, having all been destroyed,[a]—the following historical Sketch has, (in deference to a request from the Lieutenant Colonel and the Officers of the Regiment), been prepared from Official materials in my possession at the County Hall, and from external researches.[b]

The Militia of the County of Oxford dates back (in common with that of the other Counties of England), from a time very little subsequent to the Norman Conquest. At that date the Proprietors of Land were compelled, by providing Men and Arms in proportion to their Estates, to contribute to the defence of the Realm in the event of a threatened Invasion. The Soldiers were raised under the

(a) It is proper to remark that the Books were destroyed before the time of Captain Sparke, the present Adjutant of the Militia.

The Reverend E. F. and Mrs. Glanville have been so good as to search the Papers of Colonel Lord Charles Spencer,—but any records of the Militia which his Lordship possessed were unfortunately destroyed when Wheatfield House was burned down on the 1st of January 1814.

(b) As to oral testimony, I am indebted for incidents alone to Sergeant William Chandler of Oxford, the only Survivor of the old Staff of the Oxfordshire Militia. He joined the Regiment in 1809, his Father and Brother being then already in it. Sergeant Chandler is a Man of retentive memory, and of remarkable intelligence.

J. M. D.

authority

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authority of Commissions of Array, which Commissions were issued by the Crown; and the command was sometimes vested in the Persons to whom the Commissions were granted; although, more generally, the High Sheriff commanded within his own Jurisdiction. The Militia was at first liable to be marched, at pleasure, to any part of the Kingdom; but, in the Reign of Edward the Third, it was enacted by a Statute that no Militia Man should be sent out of his County, excepting in times of public danger. Dating from the Reign of Philip and Mary, the Lord Lieutenant has had the charge, under the direction of his Sovereign, of raising the Militia of his County.

King Charles the First having, by the "Petition of Right," been deprived of the power of maintaining a disposable Body of Troops in the Country, found Himself, in 1641, unable to suppress the Rebellion then raging in Ireland, and was, in consequence, induced to commit the charge of restoring Peace to the care of the Parliament. The result was that the Parliament immediately took advantage of the circumstance to get into its own hands all the Military Force of the Nation; and in the following year the two Houses passed a Bill by which it was decreed that the power over the Militia should be vested in

certain

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certain Commissioners. The King having refused His consent to this Bill, the Parliament declared that it was necessary to put the Nation in a posture of defence, and immediately issued Orders to muster the Militia. On the other hand, the King issued Commissions of Array for the like purpose to some of the Nobility, and thus commenced that memorable Civil War which desolated the Country for years; and during which Oxford so often found within its Walls an hospitable home for the King, and His Court.

Upon Charles the Second ascending the Throne, the Militia was re-established on its former footing, and the chief command was vested in the King.(a) The Lord Lieutenant of the County was made immediately subordinate to the Sovereign, and granted Commissions (subject to the King's approbation), to the Field and Regimental Officers.

Thus matters went on,—and the annual Trainings of the Militia ceased to be observed, until 1756, when, under an apprehension that the Country was about to be invaded by a French Army, considerable Bodies of Hanoverian and Hessian Troops were brought over for its defence. The spirit of the

(a) For a proof of the Loyal spirit of Oxfordshire in this Reign, see Appendix A.

Nation

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Nation however, revolted at the disgrace of being indebted to Foreign Mercenaries for protection ; and, these Troops being sent back to the Continent, a National Militia was again raised and organised under the sanction of an Act of Parliament in the 30th year of George the Second. In the second year of George the Third, the then Militia Laws were repealed, and a new Act was passed in the 26th of that Reign for regulating the Force. That Act was superseded by the Statute 42nd George the Third chapter 90, which, in conjunction with the Acts 15th and 16th Victoria, 17th and 18th Victoria, 18th and 19th Victoria, and 30th and 31st Victoria, contain the present Laws applicable to the Militia. The Militia of every County is placed under its Lord Lieutenant, subject to the command of the Sovereign; and the Regiment, when called out, is subject to the provisions of the Mutiny Act, and the Articles of War. Until recently then, the Sovereign could only employ the Militia in any part of the United Kingdom, but not out of it. In 1813 however, an Act was passed allowing the Militia, when volunteering, to be formed into provisional Regiments to co-operate with the Regulars. And, in 1855, by special Act, Her Majesty was enabled "to accept the services of the Militia out of the United Kingdom for the vigorous prosecution

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"prosecution of the War." When called into active service, the Officers of the Militia rank with those of an equal grade in the Regular Army, but as the Juniors of each grade.

An eminent Writer has well described the Militia as "an Institution of the highest utility to the Kingdom; the Men being engaged in Military occupations so long only as may be necessary to qualify them for Soldiers when called upon to take the Field, they being at all other times subservient to the practice of Agriculture, or the useful arts. They thus combine the characters of Defenders of their Country, and Contributors to its prosperity, while they remain connected in social union with their Fellow Citizens, and interested, with them, in the support of the Laws and in the preservation of the Government of the Kingdom."

Passing then, from a review of the theory of the Militia at large, to that which immediately interests the County of Oxford,—the exploits of its own Regiment,—it is matter of congratulation that the Oxfordshire Militia has (with one eventful exception in its history), uniformly held a gallant position among the Militia Regiments of the Kingdom, and that, beyond their duties in their own County, the

Oxfordshire

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Oxfordshire Militia has, at intervals, aided the Regular Army in Garrison Towns in England, and on active service in Ireland and Abroad.

Without pretending accurately, or quite chronologically to recount all the Services of the Regiment, it may be first mentioned that in 1778 the Oxfordshire Militia was quartered at Reading. Lord Charles Spencer was then the Colonel, John Caillaud Esquire of Aston Rowant, the Lieutenant Colonel, and George, Viscount Parker (afterwards the fourth Earl of Macclesfield, and Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire), the Major. In 1779 the Regiment was quartered at Newbury,—Lord Parker having then become the Lieutenant Colonel, and John Weyland Esquire of Woodeaton being the Major. From Newbury the Regiment marched to Dover Castle, and did Garrison duty there till 1780, when the Regiment was for some time at Tiptrey Camp. Continuing the permanent duty on which they were now engaged, the Regiment in 1781 and 1782 performed services severally at Sherborne, (in Dorsetshire), at Roborough Camp, Tavistock, Oakhampton, Crediton, and Exeter. The Regiment also, for a considerable time, performed Garrison duty at Pendennis Castle, Falmouth.

In 1793 the Oxfordshire Militia was employed in escorting a thousand French Prisoners from Southampton

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Southampton to Salisbury,—a circumstance which plunges us at once into the great Revolutionary War which did not end until 1815. With War came War prices, and imminence of starvation.

Turning then, to what has been intimated,—the eventful exception to the honorable career of the Regiment in times gone by, it must be recorded that in the Summer of 1794 the Regiment marched from Oxford to the Camp on the Downs at Brighton, which spread thence for miles around the Sea coast, and consisted in 1794 of about 10,000 Men, increased, in 1795, to 15,000. In the latter year the Oxfordshire Militia was stationed at East Blatchington, near Newhaven, and here a Mutiny occurred, owing to discontentment at the high prices of Meat, Flour,(a) and Bread, and the inadequate pay of the Soldiers. Yielding to an excitement common at the time, and engaging in a rude and violent struggle for reduction of prices,—the greater portion of the Privates of the Regiment combined in a tumultuous and riotous manner and broke open Bakers' Shops, ransacked Flour Mills, and cleared the Butchers' Stalls, distributing the spoil to the Mob. Beyond this they

(a) The Men were required by the then Regulations to purchase Flour for dressing their Pigtails, which was a very unpopular thing, and the expense of which was often evaded by substituting a mixture of Soap and other ingredients.

boarded

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boarded a Vessel laden with Corn, and wasted the contents. They also carried off Flour of the value of £5000 to sell "at a fair price" at Lewes Market next day. For the night they encamped at Newhaven, where they were surrounded and made Prisoners by the Lancashire Fencibles, who were in the Neighbourhood; but their Comrades in Barracks sallying out to effect their rescue, boldly attacked a Troop of Horse Artillery which disputed their progress, and were not dispersed without bloodshed. So desperate and lawless was the conduct of the Oxfordshire Soldiers that, in pursuance of the finding of a Court Martial,[a] two of the Ringleaders (Edward Cook[b] and Henry Parish) were shot, in the presence of the rest of their own Regiment, and of twelve other Regiments assembled for the purpose; and others of the Rioters were flogged, and one was transported to Botany Bay.[c] In addition to this, two of the Privates of the Oxfordshire Militia (John Sykes and William Sansom), were tried at Lewes, under a Special Commission of Assize, before Mr.

(a) See Appendix B.

(b) The tradition is that Cook owed his fate very much to being known amongst his Comrades as "Captain" Cook, and being hence assumed to be a Ringleader. Cook was a native of Witney, and Parish a native of Chipping Norton.

(c) See Appendix C, for an account of this tragedy, copied from the *Gentleman's Magazine*.

Justice

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Justice Buller and Mr. Justice Lawrence, for stealing a great quantity of Flour and other Articles from the premises of Messrs. Barton and Catt, near Newhaven, and sentenced to death; and on the 14th of June they were executed at Horsham. This Riot led to the Regiment being called by the Vulgar, "Big Loaf Oxford." As few events produce unmitigated evil, so the sad conduct of the Oxfordshire Militia upon the occasion in question, led to inquiries on the part of the Military Authorities of the Country which resulted in the standard pay of every branch of the Service being augmented.[a] The effect however, upon the individual Regiment (the Oxfordshire Militia), was severe and disastrous. It had previously been styled "The Royal Oxfordshire;" but it was now degraded to "The Oxfordshire." It had previously been distinguished by blue Facings. It was now ordered to adopt black Facings, as a punishment; which, after a seasonable interval, were changed to the Yellow Facings, which have ever since been part of the Uniform of the Regiment.[b]

(a) The sister Service however,—the Navy,—continued to be neglected; and some fearful results are noted in the Appendix D.

(b) The statement in these last sentences rests upon tradition, but I do not doubt its accuracy. I have in vain searched for documentary evidence of it at the War Office, the Horse Guards, the Adjutant General's Office, the Record Office, and the Bodleian Library.

J. M. D.

The

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The two Men who were shot, received their sentence at a part of a Down at Brighton, called Goldstone Bottom, and the spot was long cherished by its boundaries being cut out in the Turf by the Shepherds "whose innocent Flocks browsed where so tragic an affair occurred. The Plough has since obliterated all traces of the tragedy from the spot."[a] The Bodies of the two Mutineers were interred in Hove Church Yard, contiguous to the centre of the old north boundary wall, where their Remains continued undisturbed until the restoration of the Church in 1834, when a sawpit was dug at the actual spot, and a few of their bones were exhumed. The burying party was under Sergeant Major Masters, who afterwards was a Publican at Witney. The receipt for the burial fees is still retained by his Family.

From Blatchington, the Regiment was marched to the Camp at Sheerness; and thence, in October, to Chelmsford Barracks.

Next, it should be prominently recorded that in 1798 the Oxfordshire Militia was actively engaged for more than a year in Ireland in suppressing the Rebellion there.[b] At that time Lord Charles Spencer

(a) Erredge's History of Brighthelmston 1862, p. 173.

(b) See Secretary of State's Letter, Appendix E.

was

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was the Colonel, John Weyland Esquire the Lieutenant Colonel, and John Fane Esquire (the Father of the present Lieutenant Colonel John William Fane), was the Major. On the passage across the Channel an amusing incident occurred, which was a standing joke in the County against one of the Field Officers for many years subsequently. He was so irritated by Sea-sickness that, in his extremity, he vainly implored the Captain to stop the Ship and let him get out. He was in command of the West Wing of the Regiment, and this Wing narrowly escaped Shipwreck.

Again, in the early part of this Century, the Regiment was, for a long period, on Garrison duty at Dover Castle; and, owing to a mortal Epidemic that arose, many of the Privates never returned from Dover, but were buried in the Cemetery of the Castle, where Memorials of their Remains are still marked by Inscriptions on Grave Stones erected by the Officers.

In 1809 the Regiment was on Garrison Duty at Gosport; whence they were sent (on preventive service duty), to Littlehampton, where they remained for many months. During that time the Regiment was brigaded at Brighton under the review of the Prince of Wales (afterwards George the Fourth).

Whilst

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Whilst at Littlehampton a dissatisfaction arose among the Men respecting their fancied claim to an extra drill Jacket (now called a Shell Jacket), and three Privates (Curtis,[a] Greenwood, and Bellas), were so insubordinate and menacing to the Lieutenant Colonel (Perrott), that they were tried by a general Court Martial, and Curtis sentenced to receive a 1000, and the other two 500 lashes each. The latter sentence was not enforced at all, for as soon as Curtis had suffered 200 lashes, the three Men volunteered to enlist in a condemned Regiment stationed abroad, and the sentences were remitted on this consideration. From Littlehampton the Regiment was marched to the Tower of London, where they did Garrison duty for a year; and then the Regiment was sent to Bristol. At this period the Regiment was permanently on duty. From Bristol it was ordered again to Ireland, and it was in 1813 that the Regiment embarked at Pill, near to Bristol, for the Cove of Cork. From Cork the Regiment marched to Barracks at Bandon; and their next Route was to Carlisle Fort, Camden Fort, and Spyke Island; the Head Quarters being at the Cove of Cork. The

(a) Curtis' Father was a Wine Merchant in Corn Market Street, Oxford; and, failing in business, was afterwards appointed Mayor's Sergeant.

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Regiment remained in Ireland till Peace was proclaimed in 1814, when, upon its return to Oxford, the Regiment was immediately ordered to Portsmouth, on Garrison duty, and remained there for six months. After this, the Regiment was disembodied.

The Militia was afterwards maintained, and the Oxfordshire Regiment called out at yearly or other intervals, up to 1831, when the Militia was suspended throughout the Kingdom until 1852. This year began a new era in its annals. Lord Charles Spencer had resigned the Colonelcy at the end of the last Century, and had been succeeded by Colonel William Gore Langton, who died in 1847, when Colonel Charles Oldfield Bowles was appointed, and he remained the Colonel until his death in 1862.

Although however, the Militia, as a Body, was suspended for the interval in question, a Staff of 36 non-commissioned Officers was maintained in Oxford; and a memorable duty devolved upon them in 1830,—when, in conjunction with two Troops of the Fourth Dragoon Guards, a Company of the Coldstream Guards, the Oxfordshire Yeomanry, and the Buckinghamshire Yeomanry,—the Staff co-operated at Otmoor in this County in the harassing duty, day and night, of quelling the unhappy Riots occasioned by the prejudices of the Inhabitants of the Otmoor

Townships

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Townships against the Inclosure of the large Commons and Waste Ground of Otmoor.[a]

Reverting to 1852, a Regiment of Oxfordshire Militia of 481 Men was embodied in that year, constituted, for the first time, by voluntary enlistment, instead of compulsory enrolment. This Regiment was assembled at Woodstock in October 1852 for 21 days Training and Exercise; and in September 1853 at Oxford for 28 days; the number of the Regiment being then increased to its present quota of 773. In December of the following year (1854), in consequence of the War with the Emperor of Russia,—known as the Crimean War,—the Oxfordshire Militia was again embodied, and assembled at Oxford, and the Officers and Men having gallantly tendered their Services to the Government during the War "wherever Her Majesty may be pleased to send them,"—the Regiment was ordered to Corfu, and remained on duty there for a period of eleven months, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel John William Fane. For the

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(a) In a Criminal Trial in 1831, which ensued upon the Otmoor Riots, one of the Counsel for the defence facetiously quoted the following stanza:—

> The fault is great in Man or Woman
> Who steals a Goose from off a Common;
> But who can plead that Man's excuse
> Who steals the Common from the Goose?
>
> *Conveyancer's Guide.*

gallant

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gallant conduct of the Regiment on this occasion, the Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, and Men received the thanks of the House of Commons in the Session of Parliament of 1856. In July of that year the Queen, by Warrant under Her Sign Manual, caused the Regiment to be disembodied,—the Warrant expressing Her Majesty's desire "to take the first opportunity of permitting the Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men who have voluntarily undertaken the obligation of Military service, to return to their homes." And the Queen expressed the high sense She entertained of the zeal and spirit which the Regiment had manifested. In 1857 the Oxfordshire Militia was again embodied, and its subsequent career has not been marked by any particular event, beyond that, whether assembled for annual Training at Aldershot Camp, or in Oxford,—the Regiment has been distinguished for attention to discipline. In 1860 a distinctive Badge for the Regiment was prescribed by the Secretary of State for War. It is "An Ox fording a Stream, on studded Chaco Plate. Motto, *Fortis est Veritas.*" In July 1860 all Appointments to the Rank of Ensign and Second Lieutenant were suspended, and Supernumerary Lieutenants were ordered to be borne on the Establishment.[a]

(a) There is no Supernumerary Lieutenant at the present time.

Upon

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Upon Colonel Bowles' death in 1862, the command of the Regiment devolved upon Lieutenant Colonel Commandant John William Fane;—the Rank of full Colonel having, under a new Regulation, been dispensed with.

To commemorate its Services in Corfu, the word "MEDITERRANEAN" is inscribed upon the Colours of the Regiment.

JOHN M. DAVENPORT

CLERK OF THE LIEUTENANCY

FROM 1831.

Justum bellum quibus necessarium,
et pia arma quibus nulla nisi
in armis relinquitur spes.

LIVY.

COUNTY HALL, OXFORD,
JUNE 1869.

APPENDIX

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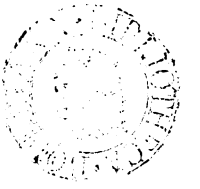

APPENDIX.

A.

From the *Calendar of State Papers*, 15th July 1666.

"GEORGE LIBONI to CHARLES PARROTT.

"The Deputy Lieutenants of Oxfordshire, and Magistrates of Oxford have been hard at work dispatching Recruits for the Army and Navy. They have sent away a Company of lusty young Bargemen, who passed along the streets singing and shouting. Also 150 able, pressed Men. A Squadron of Horse has marched to the rendezvous at Maidenhead, and many Volunteers have gone to the Fleet, under Charles Bertie, Son of the Earl of Lindsey. The Anabaptists declare they would engage against Dutch and French, if permitted. The very Women encourage their Relations to War, and one sturdy Girl put on Man's apparel, and went on board the Fleet. If other Counties had the like zeal, Holland might be drowned, and France burned in seven years."

B.

The following "Extract from a Letter from Blatchington Barracks," is copied from the *Oxford Journal* of 13th June 1795.

At

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"At a general Court Martial of Field Officers, among whom were the Duke of Manchester, Lord Grey, Lord Dundas, the Hon. Mr. Walpole, &c. &c. assembled the 4th of May, and continued until the 14th,—thirteen Prisoners of the Oxfordshire Militia were tried, of whom *Cook*, *Parish*, and *Haddocks* were condemned to be shot; *Harper* was adjudged to receive fifteen hundred lashes; *Blake*, *Heritage*, *Woodmarshal*, and *Weaver*, a thousand each; *Warren* five hundred; *Cox*, *Johnson*, *Day*, and *Drake* were acquitted. Haddocks is since pardoned, on condition of serving as a Soldier in New South Wales for ten years.—It was the most respectable Court, and awful scene, I ever saw. The whole was conducted with the greatest regularity and decorum, and the unhappy Men seemed truly sensible of the enormity of their crime, and the justness of their sentence. The day of Execution is fixed for Friday the 12th instant, early in the morning. The following Order was issued by command of his Royal Highness the Duke of York, Field Marshal: 'Every Regiment at Brighton Camp to be under Arms on the day of the execution of the sentence of the general Court Martial, the Oxfordshire to march there without Arms.' Colonel Lord Charles Spencer, by his earnest intreaty, has prevailed to have that part of the Order respecting the Oxfordshire appearing there without Arms, remitted, having promised and engaged that the behaviour of the Regiment shall not only be decent and orderly on that awful day, but that in future all the Soldiers belonging to it behave themselves like good and orderly Men, and never again disgrace the Arms which he has now obtained permission to put again into their hands. He assured his Royal Highness of the sincerity of their sorrow for their past offences, and of their steadfast determination in future to be good Subjects to the King, obedient to the Laws of their Country, and attentive to Military duty."

In

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In a few days the same Correspondent wrote as follows :—

"*Harper*, sentenced to 1500 lashes, received 300; *Weaver*, 300; *Woodmarshal*, 300; *Blake* was pardoned by the King, on account of his youth; *Warren* also pardoned by the King; and *Heritage's* sentence was remitted, on account of ill health." (Then follows a description of the Military Execution of *Cook* and *Parish*, and the Civil Execution of *Sykes* and *Sansom*).

C.

From the *Gentleman's Magazine* Vol. 65 Part 1 p. 519.

"BRIGHTON 14 June 1795. The Oxfordshire Regiment marched on Friday night last, at eleven o'clock, from Seaford, to attend the Execution of two Men condemned by a general Court Martial for riotous and disorderly conduct. The hour of Four was the time appointed to assemble. On the march, the Regiment halted; and twelve Men, who had taken a part in the Riot, were called out, when the Commanding Officer ordered them to fix their flints, and prepare to execute the Sentence. This was done to demonstrate to the Men that state of obedience in which the Officers were determined to hold them; and by this measure they felt more pointedly the folly of their former conduct, when those Persons whom they had before made their Leaders, were now to suffer death at their hands. The Regiment was then conducted to a spacious Valley, and divided in two Wings, which were stationed on each side of the place of execution. They were then followed

by

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"by the whole line of encampment. On the rising ground above the Valley, 3000 Cavalry were posted. These were followed by all the Horse Artillery. The Guns were pointed, and match lighted. From the disposition of the ground, and from the arrangement of the Troops, a more magnificent, and a more awful Spectacle was never exhibited in this Country. After the corporal punishments had been inflicted on Offenders of less note, *Cook* and *Parish*, the two unfortunate Men condemned to die, were brought forward with a very strong Escort. They walked along the Vale in slow and solemn procession, accompanied by the Clergyman, who had conscientiously devoted his time to them from the moment the Sentence had been made known; and they were fully prepared to meet their fate. Upon approaching the fatal spot, with resignation and religious confidence, they kneeled down upon their Coffins with cool and deliberate firmness; when the one who was to drop the signal, said to his Comrade, "Are you ready?" Upon the reply being made, he dropt a Prayer Book; and the Party did their duty at about six yards distance. One of them not appearing to be entirely dead, was immediately shot through the head; and the same ceremony was performed to the other. After this the whole line was ordered to march round the dead Bodies."

See also a narrative of the events in Erredge's History of Brighthelmston 1862, p. 168.

D.

From *Knight's History of England.*

"On the 3rd of March 1797 the news of the Battle of St. Vincent arrived in London. That Evening the thanks of the House of Commons were voted to Admiral Jervis, to

his

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"his Captains and Officers, and to the Crews of the Ships for their gallant behaviour. But these Crews, in the enthusiasm of glory, had not forgotten grievances of which the whole Navy was complaining. The Admiral in command of the Mediterranean Fleet however, contrived to divert his dissatisfied Crews by actively engaging them, after the Victory, in the chace or blockade of the Enemy. The same success did not attend others. At the end of March, Lord Bridport, with fifteen sail of the Line, had returned to Spithead from a Cruise off Brest. In a fortnight afterwards, having been appointed to the command of the Channel Fleet, he made the signal to prepare for Sea. The Sailors of his flag-ship, the Royal George, instead of weighing anchor, ran up the shrouds and gave three cheers. The shouts were echoed from every Ship in the Fleet, lying at Spithead. They were the signals of Mutiny. The system of Impressment, small pay, bad provisions, and neglect in sickness, were the grievances of the Navy. The common Sailors of the Spithead Fleet set at naught the commands of the Admiral, sent on Shore every Officer who was unpopular, and made every Sailor take an Oath, under penalty of death, to uphold the common cause in which they were engaged. The Board of Admiralty assembled at Portsmouth, and promised a redress of grievances, but the Seamen reiterated their demands, and said that until an Act of Parliament was passed, and pardon granted to them, they would not lift an Anchor. Three Admirals went on board the Queen Charlotte, and one of them, declaring he would hang all the men, narrowly escaped with his own life. Then was hoisted the terrible signal of the red flag,—the Pirates' signal, which implied that no quarter would be given. After two or three days suspense, Lord Bridport went on board his flag-ship, and promised complete redress and full pardon.

But,

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"But, Parliament not interfering, the Mutiny again broke out on the 7th of May. Blood was then shed, and for a week the Country was held in terror. A Bill was rapidly carried through both Houses of Parliament for an increase of pay and allowance to the Seamen and Marines. On the 14th Lord Howe, with the Act of Parliament in his hand, and the King's Proclamation of pardon, met Delegates of the Sailors at Portsmouth. The presence of this Veteran, the hero of the first of June, touched their hearts. The bloody flag was struck. Subordination was wholly restored; and on the 17th the Fleet put to Sea.

But the danger was not yet overpast. On the 22nd of May the Revolt broke out which is known in history as the Mutiny of the Nore. The Crews took possession of the Ships, and elected Delegates. The Mutineers assumed an attitude which made conciliation impossible. The acts of the Fleet were as those of a Foreign Enemy. The red flag was hoisted. The Mutineers moored their Ships in a line across the River, and intercepted every Merchant-vessel. Pitt passed Bills to provide for the more effectual punishment of Mutiny, and the Insurgents found that the Law was too strong for them. Parker, their ring-leader, was executed on board the Sandwich on the 30th of June."

E.

The following Letter, in evidence of the character of the Oxfordshire Militia when in Ireland, has (by the courtesy of the Gentlemen of the Militia Department of the War Office), been transcribed from the "Home Office Letter Book, Vol. 1."

DOWNING

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Downing Street
18 Oct. 1799.

My Lord

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's Letter of the 16th instant, and to inform your Lordship that the Instructions which it has been my duty to give to the Officers commanding the respective Militia Regiments for the execution of the several provisions of the late Act of Parliament, will not at present be forwarded to the Oxfordshire Regiment of Militia, as it is not intended that any alteration which may result from it in the Establishment of that Corps shall take place before its return to England.

The very commendable disposition which has been manifested by the Regiment to continue its Services in Ireland till towards Christmas, will certainly be a material convenience to Government at the present period, and I have no doubt that every attention consistent with circumstances at the time, will be paid to the very natural wish they have expressed to be stationed near their Families and Friends on their return from that Kingdom.

I have the honor to be
&c.
HENRY DUNDAS.

To
The Right Honorable
Lord Charles Spencer.

The following Extracts from Resolutions of Meetings of the Oxfordshire Lieutenancy, will be interesting

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interesting in proof of the Loyal feeling which was paramount at the time of National danger which evoked those Resolutions.

1798.

May 19th.

At a general Meeting of the Lord Lieutenant (his Grace the Duke of Marlborough), and Deputy Lieutenants of the County of Oxford, held at the Star Inn, Oxford, in pursuance of the Act "for enabling His Majesty more effectually to provide for the defence and security of the Realm during the present War,"—

"Resolved unanimously, that the thanks of this Meeting be given to all those loyal and well-disposed Inhabitants of the County that have spiritedly come forward with a tender of their services at this important crisis, and that they be informed that, by the Secretary of State's letters, proposals of armed Associations from towns not exceeding 2000 inhabitants, and situated inland, will not be accepted if their offer of service is confined to any narrower limits than the County in which such Town is situated, unless the Lord Lieutenant or some Deputy Lieutenant or Magistrate residing within the Division to which such Town belongs, shall, upon his knowledge of any peculiar circumstances within such Town or Division, recommend that the offer should be accepted upon a more limited scale; and, should the offer even extend to the whole County, its acceptance (unless it should be an offer of Gentlemen and Yeomanry Cavalry), will depend upon the Lord Lieutenant's, or at least

two

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"two Deputy Lieutenants certifying that, in his or their judgment, such an augmentation to the Volunteer Force already raised for service within the said County might be necessary, in case of emergency, for the preservation and maintenance of good order and of a proper police within the same. And the same regulations are to apply to smaller Parishes, Hundreds, or other Divisions of the County that may wish to associate under similar restrictions."

1803.

9th August.

At a general Meeting of the Lieutenancy of the County held at the Star Inn, Oxford, "in pursuance of certain Acts for raising an additional Military Force, and for the more effectual defence and security of the Realm, and for enabling His Majesty more speedily to exercise His prerogative of requiring the Military Service of His Subjects in case of Invasion of the Realm,"—(attended by George Earl of Macclesfield, Chairman, Earl Harcourt, and many others),—

"This Meeting, taking into consideration the blessings we enjoy, under the protection of Almighty God, in this free and happy Country, do think it our duty, in this time of imminent danger, to make as public as possible our determination to stand or fall with our King and Country.

That, weighing the threats of a daring, ambitious, and inveterate Foe to invade this Land, with intent to annihilate and overthrow its Constitution in Church and State; and,

by

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"by openly and avowedly declaring his intentions of giving up to rapine and plunder the persons and properties of the Inhabitants of this happy Island, do resolve that the most vigorous measures should be immediately adopted to carry into effect the above Acts of Parliament. And we do pledge ourselves personally to stand forward in defence of our King, our Religion, Laws, and Liberty; and for this end we do earnestly recommend to every Inhabitant of this County to use his best exertions, and to train and prepare himself in such a manner as to enable him to aid and assist the Military and Yeomanry Corps already established, in repelling the attempts of this implacable Enemy. And we do further recommend to the Inhabitants at large of this County immediately to enrol themselves as Volunteers in convenient Districts, under proper Leaders, to be trained and exercised in such manner as Government may direct. And we do further recommend that subscriptions should be set on foot in the respective Districts, in order to defray any proper expense that may accrue by carrying these Resolutions into effect, and by giving encouragement to those that may stand forward in defence of their King and Country."

As the above brief history originated from a request made to its Compiler by the Officers of the Oxfordshire Militia when assembled at Oxford in May 1869,—it is due to the Regiment to remark, in postscript, that the good conduct of the Regiment during

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during this month was the theme of observation throughout the University and City. That conduct was regulated (in addition to the example and exertions of the Officers), by the kind and anxious attentions of leading persons in Oxford,—such as the Reverend the Vice-Chancellor (Dr. Leighton), the Mayor of the City (Joseph Castle Esquire), the Reverend Canon Jenkins, Fellow of Jesus College, the Reverend A. M. W. Christopher, Rector of Saint Aldate's, Mr. Francis John Jayne, Fellow of Jesus College, the Reverend T. P. Garnier, Fellow of All Souls, the Reverend F. A. Wilson, and Mr. G. L. Kemp of Magdalen Hall, Mr. Thomas Sherwood, Mr. William Ward, and many others, who ministered to the temporal comforts and spiritual wants of the Privates of the Regiment,—on one occasion presenting each Man with a copy of the New Testament, and a Book of interesting Biography. For an account of the reception thus accorded to the Regiment, see the *Oxford Chronicle* of 5th June 1869.

LIST

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LIST

OF THE

OFFICERS

of the Regiment of "Oxfordshire Militia (No. 51) *Mediterranean*," at the date of their assembling in Oxford for Training and Exercise in

May 1869.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL COMMANDANT.

	Date of Commission.
JOHN WILLIAM FANE.	12 July 1862.*

Was M.P. for the County of Oxford from 1862 to 1868.

MAJORS

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MAJORS.

	Date of Commission.
THE HONORABLE ALGERNON SYDNEY ARTHUR ANNESLEY.	4 March 1868.*

Major Annesley was a Lieutenant in the 16th Lancers.

THOMAS MOSLEY CROWDER.	27 April 1868.*

Major Crowder was Adjutant General of Militia in the Province of New Brunswick, with the Rank of Lieutenant Colonel, from June 1862 till May 1864.

CAPTAINS.

EDWARD TREVOR ARNEY.	22 May 1862.*
HERBERT BUCHANAN.	3 June 1862.*
ALBERT MAXWELL HARTE.	30 May 1865.*
EDWARD RAMSAY.	1 June 1865.*
CHARLES RIVERS BULKELEY.	1 June 1865.*
WALTER HACKETT.	4 March 1868.*
JOHN ROSE AULDJO.	14 April 1869.*
WENMAN AUBREY WYKEHAM.	24 April 1869.*

LIEUTENANTS

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LIEUTENANTS.

	Date of Commission.
COMPTON LEGGE.	16 March 1859.
EDWARD CARRIER SMITH TOMPSON.	29 April 1863.
EDWIN FREND.	11 April 1866.
SAMUEL BREWIS.	11 April 1866.
JOHN LYNCH FLETCHER.	20 April 1866.
GEORGE TILSON SHAEN CARTER.	16 March 1869.

ADJUTANT.

CAPTAIN JOHN FRANCIS SPARKE.	30 October 1862, (to operate from 1st October).

Captain Sparke was previously a Cornet in the 4th Light Dragoons, and was afterwards a Captain in the 68th and 84th Regiments of Foot respectively, and he received an English Medal and Clasp for Services in the Crimean War, (being with the 68th Light Infantry at the siege and fall of Sebastopol), and a Turkish Medal; and he subsequently served in the Indian Mutiny, and in Burmah. He sold out of the 84th in 1861.

QUARTER MASTER

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QUARTER MASTER.

	Date of Commission.
WILLIAM WYKEHAM HOLLOWAY.	4 May 1866, (to operate from 16 April).

Was Lieutenant from 1846 to 1855, and thence Captain till 1858, when Mr. Holloway resigned his Captaincy for the Commission of Pay Master, and he became Quarter Master in 1866,—the distinct Commission of Pay Master having been abolished.

SURGEON.

JOHN BRISCOE.	24 March 1869.*

ASSISTANT SURGEON.

WILLIAM ALLIN THOMPSON.	24 March 1869.

The asterisk indicates that the Officer's present Commission was in succession to a previous one, of lower Rank, in the Regiment. *E. g.* Lieutenant Colonel Fane commenced his Militia career as Major (*vice* Goldfinch deceased), on the 2nd of May 1825.

E. W. MORRIS, JUN., PRINTER, OXFORD.

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ADDENDUM.

THOMAS VELLEY ESQUIRE of Bath was, during a long period, successively Major and Lieutenant Colonel of the Oxfordshire Militia. He was an accomplished Scholar, and an excellent Man. On the 13th of June 1806 he started by the Bath Coach from the new White Horse Cellar, Piccadilly, to travel to Bath. Whilst stopping at the Castle Inn at Reading to change horses, Colonel Velley remained inside the Coach, whilst all the other passengers alighted. Just as the new horses were attached to the Coach, their Attendant left them for a moment, and the horses ran away. The Colonel, alarmed at his situation, jumped out of the Coach, upon which a concussion of the brain ensued, and he died in a few hours.

See a Narrative of the circumstances in a Pamphlet by *I. Bain*, a fellow Traveller, in *Gough*, *Somerset*, 51, Bodleian Library.

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With reference to the Statutes mentioned at page 6, the Reader is requested to note that since the printing of the foregoing, a new Statute has been passed (32 Victoria chapter 13), "for amending the Law relating to the Militia." Its object is to provide for the united action of Her Majesty's Regular Forces and the Militia at times when they are associated for the purpose of training and exercise. The Militia, when in training, may be placed under the command of General Officers. And Officers of the Regular Forces may be attached to Militia Regiments, for the purpose of assisting in the training and exercise. After the 13th of May 1869 no Officer of the Militia is required to have a property qualification.

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